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Now, childen. let's .... Guess those Yeah frogs went home they Where are already. were you going, Dennis? HOME nice I don't like OTAS these kissir too Sames WAIT FOR Well, Dennis, was I'll call her mother to Margaret Surprised make sure the dress is the right size. You The dress ? hould Uh ... she can't leen see it over the her telephone. Mom! face ee it? Over the Yeah ... she When's Margaret telephone ' already has a Sonna have another dress so I left. party, Mom it in my room. Rave her some keen froms. I don't instead! think it will make any diference to YOU. Dennis !



LITLLS JEFF DAVIS had always loved the sea for as long as he could remember, but he had never once seen it. He lived on a big wheat farm in the Northwest with his folks and it seemed that the closest he workd ever get to the sea was liber River, really just a creek, which rean birrugh the farm. Some day, though, which rean birrugh the farm. Some day, though, escense of the world.

"Gosh, Dad, I wish you were in the Navy during the war," he often said to his father. "Then you could tell me all about the ships you were on and the places you saw and how it was."

His father would look at him, half smiling, half sericus. "The only sailing I ever did was around this farm on the tractor," he reminded Jeff. "I couldn't get in the strvice. The country needed food to fight the war, you know, But if



I could have, I'd have chosen the Army. And I wish you'd forget this sailor business, Jeff. This farm will be yours some day and I want you to learn all you can shout it."

Jeff triad to do what his father wanted. He heiged with all the chores, but all the time he was thinking about boats and ships. He made all kinds of toy boats and an alied them in the oresh, pretending they were his fleet and he was the admirat. Best of all, he had his own "kipp" tod himmelf, hig encough to sail the ocean! Actually, his "bit" was just a raft, bet it

Actually, his "thip" was just a raft, but it was well built from every oil band and fence poot his failter discarded, strongly lathed together with rough. Jeff was the capital and the whole rew, broatume, he was this only one who knew about it. It was tist do a willow tras in a small hidden cove of the creek. That ever was even fit hist har evek. Build aff and fung pretening that scene tay he would float down lister River in hist heip to be sea.

Evenings, when Jeff was finithed with his homework, he would read every book he could find on ships and sailing. His father, reading the farm journals, would glance at him new and then, disapproving but not wanting to forbid Jeff to do what insterated him aso much.

After the harvest was in, the autumn rains begun, and Jeff had even more time to read about the sen, because there was little farmings to be done in this wet weather. It rained as much that some days the school bus got stuck in the mud and bad to be pulled out with a tractor.

Almost every day, Jeff would walk through the rain down to the creek to see his "ship" tied up in the cove. Each time he noticed the creek was rising higher, getting wider, until sooi it would be big enough to carry the raft. Jeff winded he were Huckberry Finn, so he could nail down the river to the cities he had never suen, maybe right to the occan!

The more it rained, the happier Jeff became with this idea, but his father grew vary thoughtful. He listened to every news broadcast about the weather and finally Jeff understood. They were getting too much rain.

"All this rain won't hurt the farm, will it, Dad?"

"The rois is all right," his father said. "It will be good for next spring's crops. What I'm worried about is the river."

"Bear River?" Jeff asked. "Our little old ereck? That couldn't hurt anybody!"

"It did years ago, before you were born," his father said grimly. "This whole area was flooded, lots of stock lost, even a few people." "Now, Steve," his mother and. "There's no "Now, Steve," his mother and.

"Now, Steve," his mother said. "There's no reason to alarm Jeff. They've built up the levees upstream a lot aince the big flood."

Then Jeff realized that the for he imagined the fiver would be wan actually it carrible thread to them. Now the water lay in fields like huge lakes; all cars and trucks were stalled and left could hear bis mother and father taiking after he went to bed, trying to decide if they should lave the farm. But his mother's taik about how by the levees upstream were and his father's reluctance to leave the farm he loved, made them skay on, houging the raikne would end.

These, one might it happened, Jeff sait up in bod, startick. The house was creaking and growing, as if in g gale, but there was no wind outside. Jeff ran to the window and looked out into the pouring gain. The kitchen light went on, and he away the light refacted on water, rushing water! The levees upstream had broken, and the full force of the fload was guebing at the house, threatening to float it away!

His father and mother, fully dressed, rushed into his room. "Get dressed!" his father commanded. "Hurry! We have to get out of here, up to higher ground!" Jeff fairly leaped into his clothes, and the three of them hurried from the house. They stepped off the front porch, and the swirling water was up to Jeff's waist!

"We'll never make it!" his mother cried.

"We've got to!" his father said. "It's our only chance!"

"No it isn't, Dad!" Jeff enid excitedly. "We can take my ship! We can float down to the searest town and . . ."

"This is no time to think about playing with toy boats!" his father said harehly. "We're in danger. Don't you understand?" "This inst's toy. It's a raft!" Jeff told him.

"This isn't a toy. It's a raft!" Jeff told him. "It's tied up down at the creek and it's big enough for the three of us !"

"What ?" His father stared at him a moment. Then he said, "All right, let's try it. Come on !"

Wading through the muddy water, they reached the stream, no longer a peaceful little creek but a raging torrent. The willow trees were half buried in the water, but still tied to one of them was the raft.

They climbed aboard, Jeff's father whipped out his Maife cut the rope, and the raft keaped into the flood, Jeff unlands the stering oar he bad whittled out of an old plank, pat if in the slot at the eiers, and atraightened out the raft. Then it sailed straight down the stream, riding high and dry above the wrift watera.

Jeff's father looked at his mother, then at Jeff, standing like a young captain at the steering our. "There's annething to your interest in the sea, after all," he said quietly. "I still hope you take to farming, but if you ever do become a sailor, you're going to be one of the best!"

And as Jeff guided the raft toward the welcoming lights of town below, his heart awelled with pride at his ship, the first, he was aureg of many he would sail on the seven seas.

































































5 Across Down 2. American Travel 1. Time off from Assn. (abbr.) work or school 8. Sight-seeing trips 3. Kind of shell 9. First name of 5 4. Highway vehicle St. Nick 5 Railway vehicle 10. Nickname for Evelyn 6. Exists 11. Piece of metal 7. Not ever monty 9. Ocean 13. Left from bunting 14. Nearby 12. Northeast (abbr.)

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